

ER Site No. 186: Building 859 TCE Disposal

ADS: 1302

Operable Unit: Technical Area I

Site History	1
Constituents of Concern.....	2
Current Hazards	2
Current Status of Work	2
Future Work Planned	2
Waste Volume Estimated/Generated	3

Primary Contact: [Dick Fate](#)

Office Phone: 284-2568

Site History

ER Site 186 is located on the east side of 11th Street between Buildings 859 and 855 near the center of Technical Area (TA)-I. This site was identified in 1991 as the result of an employee's response to a request in the Sandia Labs Weekly Bulletin for information concerning past practices that may have released hazardous materials. This site covers one-quarter acre.

From approximately 1973 to 1983, trichloroethylene (TCE) was used to clean printed circuit boards in Temporary Buildings 1 through 6 (T 1-6), which were located immediately south of where Building 859 now stands. During this time, it was common practice to discard the expended TCE on the ground outside T 1-6. A witness to the dumping estimated that up to a quart of TCE per day was discarded in this manner. In addition, small amounts (unknown volume) of isopropyl alcohol were discarded in a similar manner.

In the mid-1980s, Building 855 was constructed south of the temporary complex that contained T 1-6; no T-buildings were affected. In 1988, T 1-6 and the other temporary buildings were removed to construct Building 859. Earth-moving associated with the construction disturbed the site such that the present location of the T 1-6 TCE dumping site is obscured. Most of the area is now covered by concrete walkways and loose landscape gravel. A witness to the TCE dumping believes that the place where the dumping occurred is now under a picnic table on a paved walkway just south of Building 859 and just north of the more westerly of two trees planted in the area. The witness qualified the certainty of the location of the TCE dumping site because of the new layout of the area.

Additional site history information and compilation of data that have been collected at this site are provided in the TA-I Resource Conservation and Recovery Assessment (RCRA) Field Investigation (RFI) Work Plan that was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in February 1995.

Constituents of Concern

The potential contaminant of concern (COC) identified for this site during its history is:

TCE

As indicated below in "Current Status of Work," no evidence of TCE was found during site investigations.

Current Hazards

There are no current hazards at this site related to contamination of the surface or subsurface soils. There may be structures or stored materials that remain at the site that are a potential hazard.

Current Status of Work

The TA-I RFI Work Plan was delivered to the EPA for review in February 1995. Site characterization and field sampling activities began in June 1995. Site characterization included collection of surface (0-2 ft) and near-surface (5, 10, 15 and 20 ft) soil samples and soil vapor samples to assess the potential for contaminated soils at this site.

No contaminants of concern were identified at this site. However, a No Further Action (NFA) proposal based on confirmatory sampling data was submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for review in October 1996.

NMED reviewed the NFA and returned a Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) in February 1998. SNL responded to the RSI in May 1998.

At the request of NMED, a supplemental passive-soil-gas survey was conducted in July 1999. The RFI data suggested to the NMED that VOCs were increasing toward the west and with increasing depth, especially the FREON 113 concentrations. The NMED requested continued investigation to the west, southwest, and northwest of the site to complete soil-gas characterization. The data from this investigation indicated that the soil gas within the site boundaries did not contain any contaminants at levels of concern. There were possible low levels of gas-phase VOCs in the western part of the site that were not associated with the original surface releases that were reported for the eastern part of the site; these VOCs may represent fugitive vapors migrating along pipe-chases.

In March 2000, NMED indicated that the site was accepted for NFA petition. The NFA was approved by NMED in October 2000 after completing the public review and permit modification process.

Future Work Planned

No further work is planned.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

A small amount of waste was generated as a result of sampling.

Information for ER Site 186 was last updated Nov 19, 2001.